



Philosophy Program Information Booklet

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

FALL 2020



The Philosophy Program

Philosophy is the discipline that engages in a critical inquiry into the most fundamental questions of humanity: What is truth? What is knowledge? How should I live? Answering these questions requires a critical yet sympathetic mind to understand a broad range of perspectives. Philosophy prepares students to become strong thinkers, and provides students with a set of intellectual skills, including reading, writing and oral presentation skills, that can be applied to problems in both their everyday life and at work. Philosophy also acts as an excellent complementary major to a range of courses of study, offering a rigorous theoretical perspective on topics in science, business, medicine, legal studies, literary studies, and the study of history and society. For this reason, no matter what else students study at University, philosophy provides students with essential skills that allow them to approach their work in a more careful, rigorous, and engaged way.

The philosophy program at the University of Guam has an especially strong focus on preparing students to analyze problems imaginatively and sympathetically, from a range of points of view (including the points of view of those from very different cultural backgrounds); to develop students' ability to reason about complex issues; and to express their ideas carefully and clearly. Graduates of our program are typically open-minded and thoughtful individuals who can solve even novel problems in a rigorous and creative manner. The skills cultivated in our program are highly sought after in a wide range of roles and by the admissions committees for all graduate degrees, including medicine, law and business. In other words, no matter what you plan to do post-graduation, a degree in philosophy will help you to do it more successfully.

In the process of becoming a philosopher, students will take on board the following Program Learning Objectives. By the end of a philosophy degree, students will be able to:

- Justify positions with reasoned argument in a rigorous way
- Express themselves orally and in writing precisely and clearly
- Understand and engage with perspectives different to their own
- Analyze real-world problems using philosophical tools
- Reconstruct the positions of authors through the close reading of texts
- Practice philosophical virtues in their interactions with others



What is it good for?

Unlike explicitly vocational degrees, there is no job – “Philosopher” – waiting at the end of your studies. However, Philosophy graduates are successful in all manner of career, thanks to the skills developed during their degree.

In fact, Philosophy may be the most “future-proofed” degree that you can get. On average, workers change jobs 10 times by the age of 40, and this number is set to increase. What’s more, people are increasingly changing not just jobs, but careers.

Philosophy graduates are among the best positioned to take advantage of this fact, since the core skills developed in a philosophy degree include a) the ability to communicate clearly and effectively; b) the ability to argue persuasively; c) the ability to approach problems in fresh ways, e.g. “out-of-the-box” thinking; and, most importantly, d) the ability to solve novel problems, or work through unexpected situations, without any guidance.

With these skills, a Philosophy graduate can succeed in any field. Even if they change careers later in life, they have the essential skills that make such a transition an easy one, as they can be given any task, and work out – on their own – how to complete it. This is simply not the case for vocational degrees, which typically train students to do one thing, and one thing only.



Philosophy Jobs

Even though you find successful Philosophy graduates in every field, some jobs are particularly well-suited to our graduates. For instance, Philosophers tend to do particularly well in the following kinds of roles:

- Lawyer
- Public Policy Analyst
- Politician
- Journalist
- Publisher
- Information Technology Professional
- Stockbroker
- Entrepreneur
- Business Executive
- Pastor

Incomes for Philosophy Graduates

According to the Wall Street Journal, the average medium starting salaries of Philosophy graduates are a middling (\$39,900). This is similar to a Marketing degree (\$40,800), a bit less than Business Management (\$43,000), and considerably less than explicitly vocational degrees such as Nursing (\$54,200) and IT (\$49,100).

However, by mid-career, the salaries of Philosophy graduates jump the most of any major, to \$81,200. By this time, the incomes of Philosophy majors overtake Marketing (\$79,600), Business Management (\$72,100), Nursing (\$67,000) and IT (\$74,800).

See the chart on the next page for the median salary comparisons between Philosophy and other majors.

Major	Starting Median Salary	Mid-Career Median Salary
Electrical Engineering	\$60,900.00	\$103,000.00
Aerospace Engineering	\$57,700.00	\$101,000.00
Math	\$45,400.00	\$92,400.00
Philosophy	\$39,900.00	\$81,200.00
Chemistry	\$42,600.00	\$79,900.00
Marketing	\$40,800.00	\$79,600.00
Political Science	\$40,800.00	\$78,200.00
Accounting	\$46,000.00	\$77,100.00
Architecture	\$41,600.00	\$76,800.00
Information Technology (IT)	\$49,100.00	\$74,800.00
Business Management	\$43,000.00	\$72,100.00
History	\$39,200.00	\$71,000.00
Nursing	\$54,200.00	\$67,000.00
Biology	\$38,800.00	\$64,800.00
English	\$38,000.00	\$64,700.00
Anthropology	\$36,800.00	\$61,500.00
Psychology	\$35,900.00	\$60,400.00
Sociology	\$36,500.00	\$58,200.00
Hospitality & Tourism	\$37,800.00	\$57,500.00
Criminal Justice	\$35,000.00	\$56,300.00
Music	\$35,900.00	\$55,000.00
Education	\$34,900.00	\$52,000.00

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¹ (The Wall Street Journal, [http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees that Pay you Back-sort.html](http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/info-Degrees%20that%20Pay%20you%20Back-sort.html))



Master of Business Administration

It may be surprising that an undergraduate degree in business is actually not the best way of getting into a top MBA program. In fact, only 18% of acceptances into the Top 10 MBA programs in the US had a business degree (compared to 24% with liberal arts degrees).²

Philosophy in particular puts you in a very strong position for being accepted into an MBA.

For one thing, Philosophy graduates have the 4th highest scores on the GMAT MBA entrance exams (and the difference between Philosophy and the highest average scorers, Physics, is less than 0.05%). By contrast, Management and Marketing graduates were among the lowest scorers.³

Since GMAT scores are the greatest single determinant in gaining admission to an MBA program, majoring in Philosophy is a huge advantage.

The second most important determinant for admission to an MBA are the applicant's essays. Writing clearly and persuasively is one of the central skills developed by a Philosophy degree.

In addition, admissions boards highly value the ability of candidates to think outside the box. Since one of the core aims of a Philosophy degree is to develop students' abilities to ask questions and to take problems apart in order to approach them in novel ways, studying Philosophy puts MBA applicants in an extremely strong position.

² MBA Data Guru

³ Graduate Management Admission Council

Law School

Philosophy graduates have the highest average scores on the LSAT (Law School Admissions Test).⁴

The relationship between Philosophy and Law is extremely tight. Of the Top 10 Law Schools in the US, 9 have philosophers on their permanent faculty, and all 10 offer joint Philosophy-Law programs.

In terms of admissions, only 52% of Criminal Justice majors and 61% of Pre-Law majors are accepted into Law School. By contrast, 82% of Philosophy majors are accepted.⁵

If you are considering Law School, majoring in Philosophy is a very good bet.



Medical School

As with the LSAT and GMAT, Philosophy majors score very highly on the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test).

In fact, Philosophy graduates have the highest chance of being accepted to Medical School (50%), compared with an average of 37% for other majors, with Biology at 35% and Chemistry at 39%.

In other words, if you want to get into Medical School, a degree in Philosophy gives you the best chance.



⁴ The Daily Nous, <http://dailynous.com/value-of-philosophy/charts-and-graphs>

⁵ Lawschooli, <https://lawschooli.com/best-majors-for-law-school/>



Other Graduate Study

Given the above, it should come as no surprise that Philosophy graduates have the highest average scores in the GRE (Graduate Record Examinations), by a considerable margin.⁶

If you are considering entering graduate school in any field that requires the GRE, then Philosophy should be your top pick as a second major.

In addition to the benefits in your GRE, a degree in Philosophy also enriches and complements your graduate studies. Philosophy is the top subject for honing your critical thinking skills, it improves the clarity and persuasiveness of your writing, and it will generally deepen and strengthen your understanding of your other field of study.

⁶ The Daily Nous, <http://dailynous.com/value-of-philosophy/charts-and-graphs/>

REQUIREMENTS

PHILOSOPHY MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

(Total: 36 Credit Hours)

Required Courses (21 credit hours): Two uniquely-numbered 100-level courses (e.g. PI101, PI102, PI103); two uniquely-numbered 200-level courses; two uniquely-numbered 300-level courses; and PI481.

Electives (15 credit hours): Any philosophy (PI) course, of which 9 credits must be upper division; or PS326.

PHILOSOPHY MINOR REQUIREMENTS

(Total: 18 Credit Hours)

Required Courses (12 credit hours): PI101 or PI102 or PI103; PI210 or PI220 or PI230; one 300-level course; and PI481.

Electives (6 credit hours): Upper-division Philosophy (PI) courses; or PS326.

ETHICS MINOR REQUIREMENTS

(Total: 18 Credit Hours)

Required courses (9 credit hours): PI102, PI220, PI481

Electives (9 credit hours): PI410, PI481, BA406, PA405, NU326, NU420

ETHICS CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

(Total: 12 Credit Hours)

Required Courses (6 credit hours): PI102, PI220

Electives (6 credit hours): PI410, PI481, BA406, PA405, NU326, NU420

COURSES

PI101: Introduction to Philosophy (F/SP/DE)

This course introduces the student to the nature of philosophy and to philosophical thinking, through a discussion of various important topics in philosophy. Issues can include the philosophy of mind, death and immortality, knowledge, time and time travel, free will, personality identity, the nature of morality, the existence of God, and more.

Can be taken to fulfil Gen. Ed. Tier II: Human Systems and Organizations

PI102: Contemporary Ethical Problems (F/SP/DE)

This course provides a careful and critical examination of the moral issues in our society, including (but not limited to) the ethics of food, climate change, ethics and the city, robotics, population ethics, space exploration, human enhancement, medical ethics, animal ethics and environmental ethics. This course develops students' abilities to engage in ethical reasoning through the application of ethical theories and moral concepts to concrete, real-world cases.

Completing PI101 is not a prerequisite for success in this course.

Can be taken to fulfil Gen. Ed. Tier II: Human Systems and Organizations

PI103: Introduction to Asian and Non-Western Philosophy (F/SP)

This course introduces the student to philosophical thinking as it developed in the Asian traditions. The course covers schools of thought that developed in India, China, and Japan. Philosophical speculation that grew out of Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Confucian, Taoist and Shinto religion is the principal focus of this class.

Can be taken to fulfil Gen. Ed. Tier II: Cultural Perspectives

PI210: Introduction to Logic (F)

This is a philosophy methods course that provides an introduction to the study of formal and informal arguments. Skills to be covered include the identification and analysis of arguments, recognition of fallacies, and modern techniques for analyzing and symbolizing certain kinds of arguments.

Can be taken to fulfil Gen. Ed. Tier II: Human Sciences

PI220: Ethical Theory (SP)

This is a philosophy methods course on ethical reasoning and an essential course for anyone interested in personal, social, or professional ethics. It examines classical and contemporary theories of morality, from both Western and non-Western philosophical perspectives. In other words, this course helps the student to think through the different theories and concepts that we rely on to guide our actions.

PI230: Indigenous Philosophy (F/SP)

This course offers a close look at various “indigenous” intellectual traditions, which may include Chamoru and Micronesian, Melanesian, Hawaiian, Māori, North American First Nations, Inuit, Aztec, Polynesian, Sami, Okinawan and Ainu philosophies. We will engage with different perspectives and worldviews, with an aim to appreciating the contributions indigenous philosophies can make to universal human questions about the nature of human beings, the world, and our place in it, as well as to debates about concrete issues, such as health care and environmental protection.

PI301: History of Philosophy I (F/Even Years)

This survey course provides an historical study of philosophical concepts and issues during the ancient, medieval, and renaissance period. The focus of the course is on prominent Western thinkers and a study of the philosophical systems they devised and the problems that they addressed.

PI302: History of Philosophy II (SP/Odd Years)

This course is a continuation of the philosophical survey begun in PI301 covering principal issues and philosophical figures that dominate the modern and contemporary periods of philosophy. Emphasis again is on pivotal Western philosophers and their influence on the development of Twentieth Century philosophy.

PI306: Philosophy of Religion (SP/DE)

This course acquaints the student with the many topics central to the philosophy of religion. This objective is accomplished through surveying the historical writings of thinkers who have made major contributions to this area and covering the most recent discussions in the field of philosophical theology. The first section covers evidential list and anti-evidentialist attempts to support or discredit the religious hypothesis. Proofs of God’s existence, the interrelationship between reason, faith, revelation, and science, God’s attributes, the problem of evil, the nature of mysticism and religious experience, and reactions to theism are discussed.

PI/FA331: Philosophy of Art (SP/Even Years)

This course is a study of the major philosophical positions taken in relation to the arts.
Prerequisites: FA231 or consent of instructor.

PI420: Community Engaged Philosophy

Community Engaged Philosophy focuses on philosophy as practice of critical thinking. This class incorporates the pedagogical principle of the Philosophy for Children (P4C), a constructivist approach to education that encourages students to think for themselves and become the authors of their learning. This class transforms a traditional classroom into an intellectual community of active participants, as we explore the ways in which philosophical inquires can be utilized in classrooms to 1) encourage active learning, 2) stimulate intellectual

curiosity, and 3) develop critical thinking habits. To achieve these goals, Community Engaged Philosophy employs the processes of reasoning that are central to P4C and philosophy in general: derive relevant/meaningful questions based on their own interests and experiences, analyze issues at hand through a community inquiry, and reflect upon the inquiry by writing their thoughts afterwards. Through these activities, students develop the critical thinking habits to assess arguments and justify their own claims, while also respecting and valuing the opinions of others.

This course is designed for educators to incorporate critical thinking habits in the classroom. Focusing on the Socratic method of learning, the goal of the course is to allow educators to internalize critical thinking habits to foster a dynamic classroom engagement. While the focus is the philosophy of education, it is a great course for any students at their senior/graduate levels to exercise critical thinking skills, learning how these skills can be utilized in discussion. It is also highly recommended for philosophy majors so that they can solidify their critical skills.

PI481/G: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy (F/DE)

Each time this course is offered it covers one specific area of philosophy or one particular philosopher. Possible course topics include Existentialism, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Environmental Ethics, Medical Ethics, Legal Ethics, the Philosophy of Samkara, and the Philosophy of Lao Tzu. The course may be repeated for credit under different topics.

PI486/G: Travel Studies in Asia (SU/Odd Years)

Philosophy students and others interested in gaining a direct intensive exposure to Asian culture and philosophy will be interested in participating in this course. Each summer one of the faculty in the philosophy program takes a group of students into a particular Asian country of choice. At this time, destination of this course is planned to be either India, Tibet, China, or Japan. This course is invaluable for students who are specializing in Asian philosophy, though anyone could benefit from this unique opportunity to gain a direct encounter with one of these countries under the guidance of an expert in the culture and religion/philosophy of that particular country.

Course Planning Guide

Odd Fanuchânan Start

Year 1 Fanuchânan (Odd)	Year 1 Fañomnâkan (Even)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CT101: Critical Thinking 2. EN110: Freshman Composition 3. EN111: Writing for Research 4. Open 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CO210: Fundamentals of Communication 2. MA110: Basic Mathematical Applications 3. PI101: Introduction to Philosophy 4. Open
Year 2 Fanuchânan (Even)	Year 2 Fañomnâkan (Odd)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Science and Math Gen Ed. 2. PI301: History of Western Philosophy I 3. PI103: Introduction to Asian and Non-Western Philosophy 4. Open 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creative and Expressive Arts Gen Ed. 2. PI302: History of Western Philosophy II 3. PI220: Ethical Theory 4. Open
Year 3 Fanuchânan (Odd)	Year 3 Fañomnâkan (Even)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PI210: Introduction to Logic 2. PI410: Community Engaged Philosophy 3. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 4. Open 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PI230: Indigenous Philosophy 2. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 3. Open 4. Open
Year 4 Fanuchânan (Even)	Year 4 Fañomnâkan (Odd)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 2. Uniquely UOG: Language Gen. Ed. 3. Open 4. Open 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 2. Uniquely UOG: Regional Gen. Ed. 3. Open 4. Open

Even Fañomnâkan Start

Year 1 Fañomnâkan (Even)	Year 1 Fanuchânan (Even)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CT101: Critical Thinking 2. EN110: Freshman Composition 3. EN111: Writing for Research 4. Open 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CO210: Fundamentals of Communication 2. MA110: Basic Mathematical Applications 3. PI102: Contemporary Ethical Problems 4. Open
Year 2 Fañomnâkan (Odd)	Year 2 Fanuchânan (Odd)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Science and Math Gen Ed. 2. PI103: Introduction to Asian and Non-Western Philosophy 3. PI230: Indigenous Philosophy 4. Open 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creative and Expressive Arts Gen Ed. 2. PI210: Introduction to Logic 3. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 4. Open
Year 3 Fañomnâkan (Even)	Year 3 Fanuchânan (Even)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PI220: Ethical Theory 2. PI306: Philosophy of Religion 3. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 4. Open 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PI301: History of Western Philosophy I 2. PI410: Community Engaged Philosophy 3. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 4. Open
Year 4 Fañomnâkan (Odd)	Year 4 Fanuchânan (Odd)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 2. Uniquely UOG: Regional Gen. Ed. 3. Open 4. Open 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Uniquely UOG: Language Gen. Ed. 2. Open 3. Open 4. Open

Even Fanuchânan Start

Year 1 Fanuchânan (Even)	Year 1 Fañomnâkan (Odd)
1. CT101: Critical Thinking 2. EN110: Freshman Composition 3. EN111: Writing for Research 4. Open	1.CO210: Fundamentals of Communication 2.MA110: Basic Mathematical Applications 3.PI101: Introduction to Philosophy 4.Open
Year 2 Fanuchânan (Odd)	Year 2 Fañomnâkan (Even)
1. Science and Math Gen Ed. 2. PI103: Introduction to Asian and Non-Western Philosophy 3. PI210: Introduction to Logic 4. Open	1. Creative and Expressive Arts Gen Ed. 2. PI230: Indigenous Philosophy 3. PI306: Philosophy of Religion 4. Open
Year 3 Fanuchânan (Even)	Year 3 Fañomnâkan (Odd)
1. PI301: History of Western Philosophy I 2. PI410: Community Engaged Philosophy 3. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 4. Open	1. PI302: History of Western Philosophy II 2. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 3. Open 4. Open
Year 4 Fanuchânan (Odd)	Year 4 Fañomnâkan (Even)
1. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 2. Uniquely UOG: Language Gen. Ed. 3. Open 4. Open	1. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 2. Uniquely UOG: Regional Gen. Ed. 3. Open 4. Open

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Year 1 Fañomnâkan (Odd)	Year 1 Fanuchânan (Odd)
1. CT101: Critical Thinking 2. EN110: Freshman Composition 3. EN111: Writing for Research 4. Open	1.CO210: Fundamentals of Communication 2.MA110: Basic Mathematical Applications 3. PI102: Contemporary Ethical Problems 4. Open
Year 2 Fañomnâkan (Even)	Year 2 Fanuchânan (Even)
1. Science and Math Gen Ed. 2. PI220: Ethical Theory 3. PI103: Introduction to Asian and Non-Western Philosophy 4. Open	1. Creative and Expressive Arts Gen Ed. 2. PI210: Introduction to Logic 3. PI301: History of Western Philosophy I 4. Open
Year 3 Fañomnâkan (Odd)	Year 3 Fanuchânan (Odd)
1. PI230: Indigenous Philosophy 2. PI302: History of Western Philosophy II 3. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 4. Open	1. PI410: Community Engaged Philosophy 2. PI481: Capstone Seminar in Philosophy 3. Open 4. Open
Year 4 Fañomnâkan (Even)	Year 4 Fanuchânan (Even)
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